

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 13, with the following amended paragraph:

Thus, it is quite beneficial for the service life of the device (i.e., of the guide structure functioning as microstructure electrodes) for it to be coated with a protective dielectric layer in the vicinity of the plasma regions.

Primarily Primarily suited for this are ceramic protective layers. The service life of the microstructure electrodes may be significantly prolonged by this protective layer which cannot be used in a direct voltage operation.